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EXA/
Deputy Director
for Administration

DDA 87-0780
14 April 1987

NOTE FOR: C/CRD/DA

SUBJECT: Meeting with Outside Consultants
on Historical Review Program

-Stan,

Thanks for your memo. Please proceed to schedule a meeting with the outside consultants during May. But in advance of that meeting, please schedule an internal Agency meeting so that we can be sure we have our collective acts together.

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Att:
DDA 87-0733x

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ORIG: EXA/DDA

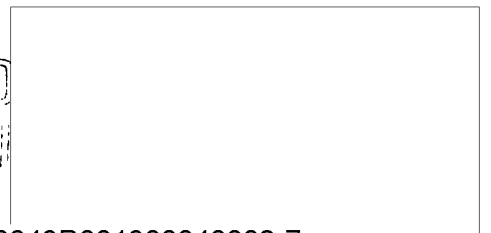


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3 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDA

VIA : EXA/DDA

FROM : Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT : Recommendation to Hold a Meeting with Outside Consultants on the Historical Review Program.

1. In Section 3(a) of the CIA Information Act, which President Reagan signed into law on 15 October 1984, Congress mandated that the DCI, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and representatives of the historical community, report to Congress by 1 June 1985 on the feasibility of conducting a program to systematically review CIA information of historical value for release to the public. The consultations with the Archivist, a representative of the Librarian of Congress, and three distinguished historians took place at CIA on 18-19 March 1985. One of their recommendations was that the DCI reassemble the consultants or a comparable group in two or three years to assess progress in the proposed program and to make further recommendations as seen necessary. In his 29 May 1985 report to Congress the DCI endorsed this recommendation.

2. It has now been about two years since that report. C/CRD, has discussed the advisability of calling a new meeting with Dr. Kenneth McDonald, Chief of the DCI's History Staff (C/DCI/HS) and we would like to suggest that a second consultative meeting be called now. The reasons for this are:

- a. We are following through on the DCI's endorsement of the earlier consultants' recommendations;
- b. We believe that our progress in the Historical Review Program (HRP) has been sufficient that it will elicit essentially positive reactions;
- c. If there are problems they will be at an early stage of development and should be easier to resolve;
- d. An early follow-through on the consultants' recommendation should hit a responsive chord in the historical community;

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- e. Now, with the problems currently facing the Agency, would be a particularly good time to do something positive.

3. If you approve we will make the formal arrangements and try to hold a one-day meeting in late May 1987 around the end of the school year. We suggest that, as in the original meeting, this meeting be chaired by the C/DCI/HS and that he be responsible along with C/CRD to provide the briefings on the HRP. Participation by other Agency components will be solicited and welcomed. Since this meeting, like the 1985 meeting, should be formally at the invitation of the DCI it would be highly useful if the DCI could invite the consultants to lunch (as in 1985) or otherwise meet briefly with them to show his support for this program. The CIA, as in the original meeting, would pay expenses of the historian consultants.

4. Attached to provide some background is the DCI's memorandum to all employees on the HRP dated 18 June 1985.

5. Your approval is requested.

SK
C/CRD

Attachment: As Stated.

Approved

Disapproved

Signature

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

18 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Historical Review Program

1. In October 1983, when the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence took up a bill to permit the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) to exempt certain CIA files from search under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Senator David Durenberger wrote to me about an issue highlighted by the Agency's work with the Committee. This issue was the need to make more declassified Agency materials available to historians. "As historians write the definitive works on the post-World War II era," Senator Durenberger wrote, "it is terribly important that their studies be based on as full a record as possible, consistent with the need to protect our national security." He therefore urged me to establish procedures for reviewing and declassifying some of the material in files not covered by the bill's exemptions. Recognizing that such a program would be a burden for the Agency, he offered to lead the effort to provide budgetary support for new positions to be devoted to this project.

2. I share Senator Durenberger's views on the need for an accurate historical record, and on 4 October 1983 I wrote him stating, "If Congress is willing to provide the resources, I am prepared to institute a new program of selective declassification review of those materials we believe would be of greatest historical interest and most likely to result in declassification of useful information."

3. The agreement by this exchange of letters envisioned an Agency Historical Review Program organized after the passage of the prospective CIA Information Act and using additional resources Congress would provide for this purpose. I had already asked the Chief of the History Staff, however, to explore a program to release historical materials from the World War II period. As a result of this initiative, the Agency took steps to transfer to the National Archives its entire holdings of declassified World War II Office of Strategic Services (OSS) permanent records, a large collection of major historical importance. This transfer began a year ago and up to now the National Archives has received and opened to public research approximately 800 cubic feet of these declassified OSS records. As I wrote to Senator Durenberger in June 1984, this transfer constitutes "an important first step in implementing the selective declassification program I promised to initiate last October."

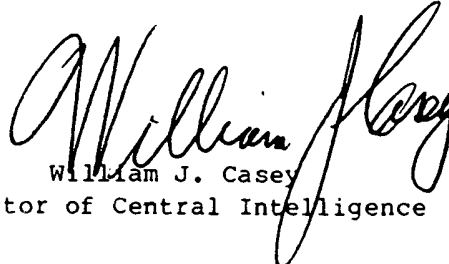
4. In October 1984 Congress passed the CIA Information Act, which relieves the Agency from the burden of searching certain designated files in response to FOIA requests. The Agency's commitment to a Historical

Review Program and its release of OSS records played an important role in the passage of this new Act by reassuring Congress and the public that, in light of the Act's FOIA exemptions, the Agency will undertake new efforts to declassify and transfer to the National Archives historically significant CIA records. Continuing Congressional interest in historians having access to CIA records is evident in the Act's requirement that the DCI, after consulting with the Archivist of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and representative historians, submit a report to four Congressional committees by 1 June 1985 on the feasibility of conducting a program for the systematic review, declassification, and release to the public of CIA information of historical value.

5. In my report to Congress of 29 May 1985 on the Historical Review Program, I stated that this kind of review is feasible, and described the program that we have established to carry it out. The Agency's consultations with those officials and historians specified by the CIA Information Act proved extraordinarily helpful, and their findings are appended to my report to Congress. Balancing the Agency's statutory duty to protect intelligence sources and methods with legitimate public interest in CIA records, this new program is designed to make significant historical information available without risking damage to national security. As I reported to Congress, this program has my strong support and we are determined to make it succeed.

6. As Senator Durenberger promised, Congress has provided CIA with ten additional positions to support the Historical Review Program which will be described in a forthcoming headquarters regulation. I have assigned principal responsibility for the program to the Office of Information Services (OIS) in the Directorate of Administration, with advice and support from the History Staff in the Office of the DCI. The Classification Review Division of OIS will coordinate closely with Agency components in reviewing documents of historical significance in order to declassify those that no longer require protection. The program is beginning with the review of the Agency's oldest records, which with the transfer of our declassified OSS records are those of CIA's postwar predecessor organizations, namely, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) of 1945-1946 and the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) of 1946-1947.

7. Although some time will be needed to find out how well the Historical Review Program will work in practice, I believe that it has been established on a sound footing. I am hopeful that this program will make possible a more accurate record and fuller understanding of our Nation's history since World War II.



William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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